

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/811,740

Examiner

Lars A Olson

Applicant(s)

AHLSWEDE ET AL.

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-38.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>03292004</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-38 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The connection system for connecting two marine propulsion devices as claimed is not shown or suggested because of the use of a connection system that is comprised of a first tie bar arm that is attachable to one of said two marine propulsion devices, a first connecting link that is pivotally connectable to said first tie bar arm for rotation about a first axis, a first rod assembly that is pivotally connectable to said first connecting link for rotation about a second axis, a coupler that is attachable in a first threaded direction with said rod assembly, and a second rod assembly that is attachable in a second threaded direction with said coupler, where said first and second threaded directions are opposite from each other.
3. The prior art as disclosed by Zeiger (US 6,699,082) shows the use of a tie bar and mount for connecting multiple marine propulsion devices. Herman (US 5,505,106) discloses an adjustable tie rod assembly for connection to a steering arm of a motor vehicle. Rodskier (US 5,370,075) discloses a tie bar for connecting two marine propulsion devices together. Mondek (US 4,778,418) discloses a tie bar assembly for connecting two marine propulsion devices together. Queen (US 4,311,471) discloses a steering mechanism for connecting two marine propulsion units together. However, none of the prior art cited shows or suggests the use of a connection system for connecting two marine propulsion devices, said connection system being comprised of

a first tie bar arm that is attachable to one of said two marine propulsion devices, a first connecting link that is pivotally connectable to said first tie bar arm for rotation about a first axis, a first rod assembly that is pivotally connectable to said first connecting link for rotation about a second axis, a coupler that is attachable in a first threaded direction with said rod assembly, and a second rod assembly that is attachable in a second threaded direction with said coupler, where said first and second threaded directions are opposite from each other.


Conclusion

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (703) 308-9807.

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January 24, 2005


S. JOSEPH MORANO
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